

Pastor Ray's Ramblings:



The most important part of a car is the steering wheel. Or is the most important part of a car the motor? Or is it the tire? Or is it the horn? Or is it the mirror? Or the sparkplug? Or the headlights? Or the seat? Or an injector, or transmission, or window, or the radiator, or a certain nut or bolt, or...? Debating what is the most important part of a car is often answered by answering the question of what is or is not broken. At any given

time the answer to what is the most important part of a car is impossible to answer because every part that makes a car run or drive is critical. And certain parts that function only to hold things together are usually not seen as too important to the whole, until circumstances depend on their working the way they were meant to work. At any given time, the interdependence of each of the parts is realized when one of them becomes defective. A single broken part can affect the entire operation of the car. A 50 cent part that is not working can make a fifty thousand dollar car unable to drive. The average car with an internal combustion engine has about 30,000 parts. Engineers plan and make cars in a way that the parts serve a certain function that compliments other parts and that make the whole sum of parts that make a car a car.

What is the most important part of a complex system that we identify as a church congregation or simply "church"? Is it the building the church meets in? Is it a certain component of that building? Is it the organ? Is it the collection plate? Is it the minister? Is it the greeter? Is it the custodian? Whatever "part" of a "church" you are, we are all vital to it working as it was designed to do and be.

This is a paragraph from a recent "opinion" article written by a person named Adam Stanley. While the majority of your English Bible is a word-for-word translation from Greek, the term "church" is an exception. The term "church" is not a translation. It's a substitution. And a misleading one at that. The term "church" is a derivative of the German term kirche meaning:

house of the Lord or temple. This term of German origin was used to interpret, rather than translate, the Greek term ekklesia throughout most of the New Testament. The Greek term ekklesia is translated as "church" over one hundred times in your English New Testament, but in Acts 19:32 – a passage describing a city in uproar – it's translated differently. "The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there." Ekklesia was not, and is not, a religious term. It does not mean church or house of the Lord. It certainly shouldn't be associated with a temple. The term was used widely to describe a gathering, assembly, civic gatherings, or an assembly of soldiers. Or as was the case in Acts 19, an assembly of rioting idol manufacturers. An ekklesia was a gathering of people for a specific purpose. Any specific purpose. It's not a building. It's not a physical location. It's a group of people. It's a lot easier to stop showing up at a place than it is to disconnect from a group of people who intimately know, love, and support each other. I hope every person who is a member in our gathering of faith called "First Congregational Church" recognizes how important you are to the whole and to the functioning of this fellowship as a vehicle of love, mercy, and grace; of the message of Jesus Christ.

Book Circle:



Book Circle will meet on Tuesday, October '6 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Anne VandeKieft. If you need directions please contact Anne VandeKieft or Ann Werner.

Ann Werner will be doing the book review. She will be choosing between "Dopesick" by Beth Macy or "Killers of the Flower Moon" by David Grann.

Annual Reports:

Annual Reports are due to the church office by Sunday, September 30. Chair people of each board/committee are to write a report. The Annual Meeting will be held the third Sunday of October (October 21) as stated in our bylaws.



Flu Shots:

Flu Shots will be given in Fellowship Hall by the District Health Department #10 on Wednesday, October 10 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Flu shots are usually covered by insurance. Cost without insurance is \$38. No appointment needed - this is a walk-in Flu Clinic.



Our Church Family:

Congratulations to **Craig & Susan Zeerip** as they welcome their new granddaughter, Briana Faith born to Brandon & Joanna at the University of Michigan hospital in Ann Arbor. Briana weighed 5"3oz.



October Birthdays

- 2 Jean Morse
- 9 Lorene Witte
- 13 Jonathan Tuuk
- 14 Miles Cowles, Jr.
Miles Cowles, Sr.
- 16 Leah McKivitz
- 21 Gordon Oosterhouse
Justin Pullman
- 22 Pat Dekleva
- 28 Lauren Zeerip
- 29 Sally DeShetler



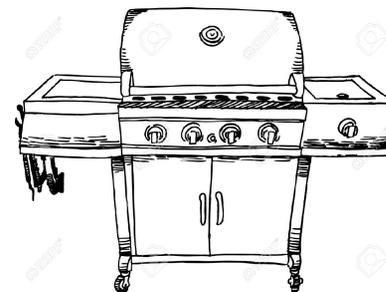
October Anniversaries

- 8 Guy & Raene` Redinger
- 28 Bob & Bonnie Erber



First Congregational Church of Fremont Invite All to the:

"Congo-Q"



with Professional Bar-B-Quer Mark Westcott

("Smokin' Good Time BBQ")

9:00am- BBQ/Grilling Tutorial with Mark

10:00am- "Just for Fun BBQ/Grilling Competition

Bring your own grill and meat (any kind) and supplies

1:00pm- Pulled Pork (by Mark) For all who come!

A donation will be accepted.

Saturday, Oct 6

First Congregational Church~714 Hillcrest, Fremont

For more info or to register call 231-414-7501

